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TYPES OF ADVISORIES

Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

**Office of Protective
Services**

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NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – November 2019

This monthly newsletter is published to inform NASA personnel of significant issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI point of contact located on the last page.

Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:

BAGHDADI IS DEAD BUT HIS LEGEND LIVES ON



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was never able to match the spectacle of al Qaeda's 9/11 attack, but his legacy as a jihadi may equal or outshine Osama bin Laden's. In spring 2010, he became the leader of what was then called the Islamic State of Iraq, after 34 of its top 42 leaders had been killed or captured.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/10/29/baghdadi-is-dead-but-his-legend-lives-on-isis-terror/>

BAGHDADI LEAVES BEHIND A GLOBAL ISIS THREAT

ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has left behind a capable global organization that continued to expand despite the group's loss of its territorial caliphate in March 2019. ISIS added four new provinces to its self-declared caliphate between April-May 2019: Central Africa, Turkey, India, and Pakistan.

<http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2019/10/baghdadi-leaves-behind-global-isis.html>



U.S. SEES RISING THREAT IN THE WEST FROM SYRIAN AL QAEDA BRANCH



The rise of this latest Qaeda branch in Syria, as well as the operations of other Qaeda affiliates in West Africa, Somalia, Yemen and Afghanistan, underscore the terrorist group's enduring threat despite the death of Osama bin Laden and being largely eclipsed in recent years by the Islamic State.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/29/world/middleeast/syria-qaeda-terrorism.html>

Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

US NEEDS ACTIVE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TOOLS TO STOP CHINA SPYING

William Evanina, Director of the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), recently stated, "From the American Revolution to the cyber revolution, spies among us have caused lasting damage to our national security, and just as our adversaries and the threats we face continue to evolve, counterintelligence and security professionals...must evolve as well."

<https://inhomelandsecurity.com/us-counterintelligence-tools-china-spying/>





FBI SEEKS UNIVERSITIES HELP AGAINST CHINESE RESEARCH THEFT



The FBI has been reaching out to colleges and universities across the country as it tries to stem what U.S. authorities portray as wholesale theft of technology and trade secrets by researchers tapped by China. The breadth and intensity of the campaign emerges in emails The Associated Press obtained through records requests to public universities in 50 states. The emails underscore the extent of U.S. concerns that universities, as recruiters of foreign talent and incubators of cutting-edge research, are particularly vulnerable targets.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/fbi-seeks-universities-help-against-chinese-research-theft/>

MAN CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING FABRICATED U.S. SECRETS TO CHINA

The United States ran a double-agent operation against China's Ministry of State Security, an indictment unsealed in California revealed recently, as it announced that it had arrested an American citizen and charged him with smuggling what he thought were classified American secrets to China's leading intelligence agency.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/30/us/politics/china-spy-arrest.html>



Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

The recent military operation that eliminated the head of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was a stunning success. However, his death, along with the death of the ISIS chief spokesperson Abu Hassan al-Muhajir does not mean that ISIS is finished. Its struggle against the West, as well as Al-Qaeda's movement, will continue into the future. The radical Islamic movement has spread into at least into 32 countries, creating a vast network of terrorist cells and sympathizers. Chinese espionage efforts against the United States continue, however, an effort against Chinese illegal technology collection is growing, led by the FBI, seems to be having some effect. The West, led by the United States, is now facing the critical threat of Chinese economic espionage and is moving forward to combat it. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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